

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1896.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED
TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SERVICE
OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCI-
ATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS,
THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS,
THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED
PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message that President Cleveland sent to Congress yesterday is long, but interesting. We find in it few of those city and elaborate phrases with which he has adorned his earlier messages. For the most part the message is confined to a review of the operations of the several departments of the government and recommendations thereon that he makes for congressional action. Foremost in importance is what the President says about Cuba. His position is a conservative one, and we suspect that it will meet with general approval, more especially as it is based, supposedly, upon the observations in Cuba of Consul-General Fitzhugh Lee.

The President urges for the present a policy of non-interference towards Cuba. He cannot perceive that any progress has been made toward the pacification of the island. Spain still holds the seaports and the considerable towns, and the insurgents still roam over two-thirds of the inland country. Both sides seem as determined as ever. He learns that "the putative Cuban Government" has now given up all attempt to exercise its functions, "leaving that government confessedly (what there is the best reason for supposing it always to have been in fact) a government merely on paper."

He believes that the Spaniards are now acting upon the same theory as the insurgents—namely, that the exigencies of the contest require the wholesale annihilation of property that it may not prove of use and advantage to the enemy. Thus the industrial value of the island "is fast disappearing, and unless there is a speedy and radical change in existing conditions it will soon disappear altogether." The President says our people cannot view this spectacle with unconcern, especially as from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 of American capital is invested upon the island, while the volume of trade between the two countries in 1895 was \$105,000,000.

In short, upon a careful review of the situation, it seems to President Cleveland that, "if Spain should offer to Cuba genuine autonomy—a measure of home rule, which, while preserving the sovereignty of Spain, would satisfy all national requirements of the Spanish subjects—there should be no just reason why the pacification of the island might not be effected on that basis."

Mr. Cleveland states that this government some months ago made a suggestion to Spain, that it would co-operate with Spain to facilitate a settlement on this line; but no definite response has been received from the Spanish Government. Yet he believes that this suggestion is not altogether unwelcome.

"It is, therefore, hoped on all grounds that earnest efforts for healing the breach between Spain and the insurgent Cubans upon the lines indicated may be at once inaugurated, and pushed to an immediate and successful issue."

The President gives notice that the United States would object to the acquisition of Cuba by any other power. Nor, says he, will this country be content to wait an indefinite time for the pacification of the island. The time may come when "a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge."

But, until we face the contingency suggested, the President urges that we should continue in the line of conduct heretofore pursued.

The language of the President is carefully guarded, so as to give no offence to Spain. He wishes this country to act the part of a pacificator; but he is decided in his opinion that we should not be content to wait indefinitely for the attainment of this result.

Reading between the lines, we see—or think we see—that it is the President's view that if Spain will not grant home rule to Cuba, and cannot suppress the insurrection within a reasonable time, the United States will then feel called upon to act, so that our disorderly neighbor shall be compelled to keep the peace.

The President reports that the rights of American citizens resident in Ottoman Turkey have been safeguarded as far as possible; but that popular outbreaks are likely to occur, with consequences which no forethought on the part of this government can avert. However, he does not believe that "the present sombre prospect in Turkey will be permitted to offend the sight of Christendom." He declares that it mars the human and civilized civilization that belongs to

the close of the nineteenth century, and that it hardly seems possible that the earnest demand of good people throughout the Christian world for its corrective treatment will remain unanswered.

The President reports that the Venezuelan question has been referred to arbitration.

The application of the civil-service rules to certain consular appointments has been attended with success.

The President again urges Congress to provide at public expense official residences for our ambassadors at foreign capitals.

The deficit in our revenues for the year ending June 30, 1896, is stated at \$25,203,245. The receipts from customs show an increase of \$7,363,124.

The metallic money in the United States at the close of the fiscal year was \$1,228,326,035, of which \$309,197,961 was in gold, and the balance in silver. The total stock of money of all kinds in the United States was \$2,285,102,529, and the amount in circulation, not including that in the Treasury holdings, was \$1,627,955,641, being \$22.61 per capita, upon an estimated population of 73,922,000. Many other interesting figures with relation to our currency are given.

We received as immigrants during the year 340,468 persons; an increase over the preceding year of 84,731. The details on this subject are interesting, and it is thought the immigrants received were of a better class than formerly.

A good showing of the work of the life-savings stations is made in the message.

The President states that the entire army of this country has now been equipped with the new magazine arms, and he declares that wise policy demands that all available public and private resources should be so employed as to provide within a reasonable time a sufficient number to supply the State militia with these modern weapons and provide an ample supply for any emergency. He recommends that every encouragement be given to this deserving body of unpaid and volunteer citizen soldiers, upon whose assistance we must largely rely in time of trouble.

Rapid progress has been made toward the completion of the scheme adopted for the erection and armament of fortifications along our seacoast, while equal progress has been made in providing the material for submarine defence in connection with these works. The President recommends additional appropriations, and says we should always keep in mind that of all forms of military preparation coast-defence alone is essentially pacific in its nature. They are not a temptation to war, but a security against it, he asserts.

The President reports the utilization of the abandoned military prison at Fort Leavenworth as a United States penitentiary. He recommends that this prison be enlarged and improved; also, that another United States penitentiary be erected—and in the South.

The President is greatly pleased with the success that has met the change of system by which many United States officials formerly paid by fees are now paid by salaries.

The year's report as to the Post-Office Department shows large extensions of both star-route service and railway-mail service. The President points out the loophole in the law which permits the transmission at the rate of 1 cent per pound of aerial libraries, advertising sheets, &c. The details of the operations of the Post-Office Department are of general interest.

In view of possible contingencies when our navy may be very serviceable to our country, what the President says on the subject of the navy is important. He writes that "the construction of vessels for our navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present administration upon the general lines previously adopted." Since March 4, 1893, there have been placed in their first commission three first-class and two second-class battleships, two armored cruisers, one shore-defence ram, and five double-turreted monitors, including the Maine and Puritan, just completed. Eight new unarmored cruisers and two new gunboats have also been commissioned. The Iowa, another battleship, will be completed about March 1st, and at least four more gunboats will be ready for sea in the early spring.

Our public lands have been reduced from 1,586,000,000 to about 656,000,000 acres, excluding Alaska. The President urges that the remainder of our public lands should be more carefully dealt with and its alienation guarded by better economy and greater prudence.

Our Indian population is 177,253, not including those within the State of New York and those comprising the five civilized tribes. The matter of educating the children and "in every other particular the improvement of the Indians under government care has been most marked and encouraging." The President recommends legislation the better to protect the Indians from the consequences of their own mistakes and improvidence, and to secure to them their rights against intruders and professed friends, who profit by their retrogression.

"The diminution of our enormous pension-roll and the decrease of pension expenditure, which have been so often confidently foretold, still fall of materialization," the President reports. The number of pensioners is 979,673, and the cost of them to the government is \$12,296,559 per annum. Great abuses have crept into the system, he reports, and these "have done incalculable harm, demoralizing our people and undermining good citizenship."

The President fears that a time of retrenchment may lead to a time of extravagance, and that the pension abuses so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those who, worthy of a nation's care, ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude."

The work of the Agricultural Department is commended, but the President urges the discontinuance of the practice of distributing seed gratuitously.

The President is still a strong civil-service reformer, and praises this branch of the governmental service and commends the report of the Civil Service Commissioners. He speaks well of the Interstate Commerce Commission and its work.

The President's message is full of interesting facts and figures, and should be read by all who wish to be well-informed as to the great Federal questions of the day. To a large extent it deals with business matters, and hence should receive the particular attention of the business community. The President says nothing about the near approach of the close of his official term, expecting no doubt to have other opportunities to do so, as specific messages may be required of him from time to time between now and the 4th of March. All that the President has to say of the late election will be found in his opening paragraphs. These are congratulatory upon the stability of our institutions, and are probably intended to be non-partisan,

though his leanings may be seen in them.

New question is, "How many of the recommendations of Mr. Cleveland's message will be enacted into law by Congress?"

REVENUE AND BANKING.

President Cleveland devotes the latter part of his annual message to Congress to the tariff, the currency question, and trusts. He defends the Wilson law, claiming that, whatever may be its shortcomings as a complete measure of tariff reform, it must be conceded that it has opened the way for a freer and greater exchange of commodities between this and other countries. He points out that in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, the only entire fiscal year that has rounded up under its operations, our imports increased over those of the previous year more than \$5,000,000; while the excess of domestic exports over the previous year was nearly \$3,000,000. The President contends that our tariff laws are only primarily justifiable, as sources of revenue, to enable the government to meet its necessary expenses, and that, in this respect, the present law cannot justify fall under condemnation. As to the deficit of some \$25,000,000 between our receipts and our expenditures, he says it was not unexpected. A deficit of \$17,000,000 was foretold by the Secretary of the Treasury seven months before the close of the fiscal year.

The President's contention is, that the proposition that the apprehension and timidity in business circles and the depression in all activities resulted from the operations of the present tariff law. These conditions, however, he says, seriously checked the imports, and readily account for the deficit. He believes that the Wilson law, if allowed an opportunity, will, in the near future, with economical expenditures, yield a revenue that will overcome all deficiencies.

The President makes a statement of the funds in the Treasury available to meet deficiencies, and defends the policy of paying out these funds for that purpose. It is not, he declares, the function of the government to accumulate a fund not needed for immediate expenditures. He maintains that it is better to appropriate our surplus to the payment of justifiable expenses than to allow it to become an invitation to reckless appropriations and extravagant expenditures.

Passing to the "weakness and vices of our financial methods," which are "opposed to every rule of sound finance, and shown by experience to be fraught with the gravest peril and perplexity," the President attacks the "endless chain." He is convinced, he says, that there can be no assurance of financial safety until the government's obligations, upon which gold may be demanded from the Treasury, are withdrawn from circulation and cancelled. He iterates his former suggestion, that these obligations be exchanged for long-term bonds, bearing a low rate of interest, or that they be redeemed with the proceeds of the sale of such bonds. He holds that, even if only the greenbacks were retired, "it is probable that the Treasury-notes issued in payment of silver purchases under the act of 1893, now paid in gold when demanded, would not create much disturbance, as they might from time to time, when received in the Treasury, be redeemed in gold or otherwise, be gradually and prudently replaced by silver coin."

Falling of the bond-redemption remedy, he would resort to the slower process of cancelling and not reissuing currency obligations redeemable in gold, whenever they have been so redeemed.

The President thinks that national banks should redeem their own notes; that they should be allowed to issue circulation to the par value of bonds deposited as security, and that the circulation-tax ought to be reduced to one-fourth of 1 per cent. He is of opinion that too much stress has been laid upon the danger of the contraction of the currency. It is not so much contraction as unequal distribution of currency that should be avoided, he says. He renews the recommendation contained in a previous message that the organization of smaller banks be allowed in less populous communities than the law at present permits, and that existing banks be authorized to establish branches in small communities under proper restrictions. In concluding his treatment of this subject, however, the President uses the following significant language: "The entire case may be presented by the statement that the day of sensible and sound financial methods will not dawn upon us until our government abandons the banking business and the accumulation of funds, and confines its monetary operations to the receipt of the money contributed by the people for its support, and to the expenditure of such money for the people's benefit."

The President criticizes trusts as tending to stifle wholesome competition, crush out individual independence, and hinder or prevent the free use of human faculties, and the full development of human character. If, he says, the insufficiencies of existing Federal laws against trusts can be remedied by further Federal legislation it should be done; but it must be recognized that all Federal legislation on this subject may fall short of its purpose, because of inherent obstacles of our system, which confine the Federal authority to its own sphere. He doubts whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated by Federal action, but thinks there is no question of the power of the several States to act effectively in the premises. In closing the message, the President makes an appeal to Congress for the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the money held in trust for the people.

Our copy of the President's message reached us at an early hour yesterday morning over the wires of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and was presented to us with the compliments of that organization.

The receiving of the message occupied two operators five and a half hours and was a big piece of work, which was done with great accuracy and celerity.

In this way the message was spread all over the country, and without cost to the newspaper patrons of the Western Union.

The Springfield Republican, in commenting upon the statement of Mr. Moody that the people of New England are just as naturally bad as the people of New York, remarks: "We are a very wicked lot." If there was as little of the pharisaical in New England generally as there is in the Republican, there would be some hope for that section.

The question "What is a meal?" has been raised in New York. That, we should think, would depend largely upon how hungry a man was.

The Providence (R. I.) Journal does not take stock at all in the criticisms of the battleship Texas.

Dr. Deane's Dyspepsia Pills.

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THE TOWER, Corner Second and Broad.

HELPFUL IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS TIME.

Here is where you find the useful gifts—those that last for years as reminders. Today we will sell Parlor Tables, Library Tables, Tea Tables, and Card Tables for \$1.25. They are heavy, Solid Oak Tables, and sell regular for \$2.50.

Large-Size Cane-Back and Cane-Seat Rockers, \$1.98; worth \$2.50.

Cane-Seat Sewing Rockers, 90c.

GLOVES.

For men, ladies, and children, for all purposes and occasions in Ladies' Embroidered Kid Gloves, in clasp and buttons.

Novelties in Embroidered, Hemstitched, Irish Point, and Lace Covers, embracing all the new designs for pillows, side boards, and Table Covers for decorative purposes, together with a complete line of Table Cloths, Napkins, Lunch Sets, Towels, &c.

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collar, satin ribbon at neck, large, full sleeves.

BARGAINS IN DRESS SKIRTS.

At \$1.50—Skirt of Fine Figured Black Goods, cut on the new spring pattern, percale lined, velvet bound; a regular \$2.50 Skirt.

HANKERCHIEFS.

Here are three attractions for to-day: Ladies' Open-Work, about half-inch all around, and Hemstitched, 12-1/2c, instead of 25c.

Gentlemen's Hemstitched Handkerchiefs, 50c.

Gentlemen's Silk Handkerchiefs, hemstitched, 50c.

CURTAIN BARGAINS.

All one-pair lots of Nottingham Lace Curtains to be sold to-morrow less than cost.

VISIT THE BASEMENT FOR TOYS.

Another large line of Sample Cloaks on sale.

The holiday reductions in Carpets—every one should take advantage of it.

The Tower, Julius Sytle & Son, Cor. Second and Broad.

CASH ENABLED US TO SECURE 200 OF THOSE

Elegant 3-Piece Chamber Suits

AT OUR OWN PRICE.

\$11.98

\$11.98